

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
Dredge RN Weeks, Charlotte Harbor, FL  
USACE, Jacksonville District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 10/30/98 Loads: Ø2 - Ø6  
Area(s) Worked: Charlotte Harbor, FL Sta 0+00 - 100+00, 30+00 - 60+00  
Weather Conditions: Clear skies, light and variable winds, seas light chop  
Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 76°F Below Mid-Depth 75°F  
Condition of all screening apparatus: Good; in addition to existing screening rebar was added to dragheads to prevent large pieces of coquina stone from entering.  
Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No     

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):  
A loggerhead turtle (~~Caretta caretta~~) was observed wedged into the starboard draghead upon the completion of load #6 at 2350 hrs. The adult sized (>90cm CCL) turtle had the anterior portion of its carapace wedged into a space between the newly constructed rebar grid. Without this grid the animal would have been taken completely into the pipe. No trauma to the carapace or plastron could be observed, however the turtle's left eye sustained a suction-like trauma and was very bloodshot. A crowbar was necessary to remove the turtle. Upon falling to the deck it quickly fled over the side of the boat and dove, appearing mostly unharmed. At this time the vessel was traveling 10Kts en route to the booster. It's not known if the turtle dove quickly enough to avoid the prop-wash and an impact. Material being dredged is sand and coquina stone. Other biological specimens included sea stars, Libinia sp., clearnose skates, flounder, hermit crabs, striped burrfish, batfish, stingrays, horseshoe crabs, sea stars.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tt</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>observed both in cut and @ booster</u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Steve Pete

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
Dredge Mermentau, Charlotte Harbor, Florida  
RN Weeks  
USACE, Jacksonville District

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 10 / 26 / 98 - 11 / 01 / 98 Loads: 53-100 Mermentau 01-11 RN  
Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 73-78<sup>0</sup>F Below Mid-Depth 75-78<sup>0</sup>F Weeks  
Area(s) Worked: Stations 30+00-60+00, 0+00-100+00

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species?**      Yes    ☒      No    ☐

Comments (Attach Daily Reports and Incident Reports as necessary):

On the 29th the dredge RN Weeks came and joined the project for four days. The dredge RN weeks departed Sunday morning and will return in about three weeks to complete the project.

Load six on the RN weeks dredge an incident with a adult loggerhead sea turtle occurred. When the starboard draghead was brought aboard the turtle was wedged in the back of the outboard draghead. No wounds were observed to the carapace or plastron. However the turtles left eye sustained a suction like trauma, the eye was very bloodshot. The anterior portion of the carapace was wedged into the draghead. When the turtle was pried out it fell onto the deck where it quickly scattered over the side before the observer was able to catch it. The turtle appeared unharmed as it swam away.

Samples this week were very different from dredge to dredge. The Mermentau samples were very small in quantity. As the dredge RN weeks samples were overflowing in the inflow boxes. The dredge was digging large quantities of coquina rock.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt	7	23	Bottlenose Dolphins

Eric Westerman, Robin Phylky, Steve Pete

Observers On Duty: \_\_\_\_\_